



## white crappie

*Pomoxis annularis*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Perciformes
Order:	Centrarchidae

### Features

The white crappie has a deep body that is flattened side to side. The back is arched in front of the dorsal fin and dips over the eye, giving it a humpbacked appearance. It has a dark back, silvery sides with seven to nine dark chainlike bars, a white belly, and spots on the dorsal, caudal, and anal fins. The dorsal fin has six spines. White crappie average 10 to 12 inches long at age four. They seldom exceed two pounds.

### Natural History

The white crappie lives in creeks, rivers, lakes, and ponds. It moves in groups around submerged objects and may be found at depths of 15 feet or more. It eats insects, small fish, and crustaceans. It moves to shallow water to spawn. It reaches maturity at an age of two to three years. Spawning occurs April through June. The male builds a nest by fanning his fins over the bottom. A nest may hold 20,000 eggs, which hatch in three to eight days. The male guards the

eggs. White crappie have an average life span of seven to eight years.

### Habitats

constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River; natural lakes and prairie marshes

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

statewide

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.